Jack Anderson to halt "leak" testimony use. Page 4.

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# 4 spies offered cash to plead guilty: McCord

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*Of Our Washington Bureau*

WASHINGTON — Watergate conspirator James W. McCord Jr. has told a federal grand jury that four members of his spy squad told him "they had been promised money if they pleaded guilty."

McCord said he was told about the assurances during the Watergate trial by Bernard L. Barker, a Miami real estate man who is regarded as the leader of the Miami group.

Barker and three other Miami men — Frank Sturgis, Virgilio Gonzalez and Eugenio Martinez — did plead guilty to wiretapping the Democratic Party headquarters in the Watergate building.

Under questioning by U.S. Judge John J. Sirica, the four Miamians denied they were being paid to change their pleas from innocent to guilty.

McCORD'S statement about a payoff for guilty pleas was given to a federal grand jury on April 9. A copy of the transcript was obtained by columnist Jack Anderson and made available to The Daily News.

McCord has testified that he was paid $15,000 for legal expenses and salary continuances through the wife of E. Howard Hunt, another Watergate conspirator, who also pleaded guilty.

Mrs. Hunt and Hunt both told him that he was expected to "keep quiet" in return for the money, McCord has said.

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He refused to plead guilty, however and was convicted along with G. Gordon Liddy, former counsel to President Nixon's re-election committee.

McCord said Mrs. Hunt, who used a code name of "Chris," handed him up to $17,000 in cash on one occasion. She died in a plane crash near Chicago's Midway Airport on Dec. 8, 1972, while carrying $10,000, mainly in $100 bills. FBI agents checked for evidence of sabotage in that crash, government sources said, and failed to find any.

IN OTHER testimony before the grand jury, McCord said Mrs. Hunt told him that Paul O'Brien, a Washington attorney for the re-election committee, told her and Hunt that Alfred Baldwin III, who actually listened to the tapped conversations, had turned himself in to the FBI within 24 hours of the Watergate arrests June 17.

Mrs. Hunt said O'Brien attributed the information to FBI reports, McCord said, adding: "How in the world did O'Brien know that Baldwin had turned himself in, unless somebody in the FBI or the White House had passed this word to O'Brien? . . . Some sort of pipeline going on there. . . .

ACTING FBI director L. Patrick Gray III testified at Senate hearings that he turned over 82 FBI reports to White House counsel John W. Dean III late in July, about the time McCord claimed he heard about Baldwin from Mrs. Hunt.

McCord hired Baldwin to [illegible] across the street from Democratic offices in the Watergate complex. Baldwin testified at the trial that he listened to more than 200 calls.

McCord said the re-election committee was paying $3,000 a month to Hunt and Liddy and he accepted the same amount as "salary continuance" from July through January, when the trial began.

IN A RELATED development, the General Services Administration said it would comply with a subpena for records stored in the archives by the Committee for Re-election of the President (CRP) on Feb. 5 and April 19, 1973.

Acting GSA Administrator Arthur Sampson said the subpena was issued by attorneys for Common Cause, a citizens' lobby that is seeking disclosure of the names of contributors to the Nixon finance committee.

The documents, estimated to occupy 1,500 cubic feet of space, are from CRP, its finance arm and 500 other committees associated with the President's re-election effort.

MEANWHILE, speculation continued that Mr. Nixon might order a complete restructuring of the White House staff and might tap someone outside the immediate White House family to oversee the

job.

mentioned for the house-cleaning job include Sec. of State William P. Rogers, former Treasury Sec. John B. Connally and former long-time Nixon adviser Bryce N. Harlow, now a vice president of Procter & Gamble.

The Washington Post reported Thursday that former Defense Sec. Melvin R. Laird told some associates that he was asked to take over the project but declined. The White House said later that no such job offer had been made to Laird.

Presidential press secretary Ron Ziegler said neither Mr. Nixon nor anyone acting on his authority has approached anyone about directing any White House reorganization or to recruit them to replace present staff members.